

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-37 were pending in this application.

Claim 1 is objected to for having an informality.

Claims 9-19, 20-23, and 28-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 27-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 24-26, and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Panchul et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,226,776 (hereinafter "Panchul").

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Killian et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,477,683 (hereinafter "Killian").

Claims 3, 27, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panchul.

Claims 6, 9-12, 16-19, and 28-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panchul in view of Killian.

Claims 13-15, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panchul in view of Killian in view of Ashar et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,745,160 (hereinafter "Ashar").

Summary of Interview

The Examiner and applicant's representatives, Michael J. Chasan (Reg. No. 54,026) and Alexander Shvarts (Reg. No. 47,943), conducted an interview on February 21, 2006 at the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicant and applicant's representatives wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview. During the interview, the Examiner and applicant's representatives discussed the pending rejections and the cited references.

The Examiner suggested that in order to properly examine applicant's claims, applicant should amend the claims in the manner set forth herein. While applicant disagrees with the Examiner's reasoning, including the statements made in the Examiner's Interview Summary dated February 24, 2006, in an effort to advance prosecution applicant agreed to amend the claims in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant's Reply

Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 21-23, and 25-27 to comply with the Examiner's suggestions. Applicant has canceled claims 5, 9, 12, 18, 20, 24, 28, and 30-37 without prejudice. No new matter has been added and the amendments are fully supported and by the originally filed specification.

While applicant maintains that the previously pending claims were allowable over the cited prior art and met all statutory requirements with regard to 35 U.S.C §§ 101 and 112, in order to advance prosecution applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the examiner's suggestions. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the previously pending claims and/or subject matter contained therein in one or more continuing applications.

Reconsideration of this application in light these amendments is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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